

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 17.5
TITLE: ORTHOPEDIC BRACES AND APPLIANCES: SHOES

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(d)(3)(viii)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 7, Section 5.1

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

January 23, 1984

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

HCPCS Level II Codes L3060, L3070-L3090, L3224-L3225, L3260, L3600-L3640

III. POLICY

Orthopedic braces including shoes which are an integral part of the brace (neither the shoe nor the brace is usable separately) are covered.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Shoes attached to orthopedic braces may be replaced when outgrown or worn out.

B. Impression castings necessary to construct a shoe that is an integral part of an orthopedic brace are also covered.

C. Unna boot. The Unna boot (or the Unna's paste boot), which is a soft cast, may be covered if medically necessary and appropriate. No additional payment is allowed for application of the Unna boot when it is billed in conjunction with an office visit. However, additional benefits are payable for the supply itself.

V. EXCEPTIONS

A. A separate shoe worn without a brace is not covered even if there is a foot deformity.

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B. The Whitman foot plate (also referred to as Whitman brace) is a type of an arch support and is not covered.

END OF POLICY